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EXAMINER

DICKERSON, CHAD S

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2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/633,976	Applicant(s) SUZUKI, OSAMU	
	Examiner Chad Dickerson	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 3/3/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 March 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/3/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 3/3/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the recently filed Amendment on 3/3/2008, the Applicant asserts that the applied references of Tomida and Watanabe do not disclose the features of independent claims 14, 19 and 22. Specifically, the Applicant asserts that the automatically performed features of "*determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code*" in the system and "*specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific code*" both are not disclosed by the references of Tomida and Watanabe.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion. In the system of Tomida, there are two examples of titles, or subject names, being determined to be used. One example occurs in column 8, lines 25-57. This scenario shows an example of a user designating a destination to send a facsimile transmission using the internet,

but does not designate the title to be input on the transmission by a one-touch key (*the one-touch keys are considered as the specific user code since the one-touch keys are codes that represent titles or other receiving apparatuses that are specified when the user activates or enters in the one-touch key in the system; see col. 5, lines 1-67*).

Here, the system recognizes enlarged character arrays on the first page of the document and an OCR (optical character recognition) operation is executed to extract these characters to be used as a title for the facsimile operation using the internet.

The other example of automatically performing the above claim features is in column 8, line 58 - column 9, line 31. Here a user desires to perform a facsimile transmission process. First, the user designates the address of the receiving party. Next, the process goes to the user designating the title of the facsimile. However, when the user does not designate or forgets to designate a title, the system automatically inputs a title in the facsimile from the default titles registered in the system that also have their own one-touch key. Both examples above perform the feature of automatically determining a title, or subject name, for a facsimile transmission, while the second scenario chooses a title, amongst other titles, to be used in the facsimile transmission.

Lastly, the Examiner has addressed the feature of claim 19 stating ” *specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific code*” in the rejection below. Therefore, in light of the above arguments, the feature of the claim is performed and the rejection of the claim in view of the same references is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 14-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomida '255 (US Pat No 6922255) in view of Watanabe '215 (US Pub No 2002/0122215).

Re claim 14: Tomida '255 discloses a network facsimile apparatus comprising:

image information scanner part configured to scan an original and output image data corresponding to the scanned original (i.e. the scanner (47) is used for reading an image from an original document and the image data is output by using the facsimile device (1) for transmission through the modem (59); see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

display part including a predetermined display unit (i.e. the LCD (57) displays various messages, such as operational procedures and error messages. It also functions as a touch panel; see fig. 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

image data transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive image data via a public network (i.e. the modem (59) is used for performing transmission and reception of facsimile communications between the public network (32) and the circuit controller (61). The circuit controller (61) is used for transmitting and

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responding to calls by the public network (32); see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

mail transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive mail data via a network (i.e. the mail controller (65) is used for converting facsimile data into e-mail data to be transmitted and converts e-mail data received; see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

code determination part configured to determine whether a specific user code has been specified (i.e. in the system, the one-touch keys are considered as the specific user code since the one-touch keys are codes that represent titles or other receiving apparatuses that are specified when the user activates or enters in the one-touch key in the system. The system determines whether a certain one-touch key is specified when a user wants to transmit a email or fax to a person or to save information relating to the fax, email or title coded on the one-touch key; see figs. 3-6; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34);

subject name registration part configured to register for each of a plurality of registered user codes, corresponding one or more subject names associated with the registered user code (i.e. in the system, the one touch keys are considered as the user codes since these one-touch keys are coded by the user with information that is being used by the facsimile device. In the system, the user registers titles to one-touch keys in the system. A plurality of one-touch keys is used to register a plurality of titles that can be associated with the one-touch keys. Also, interpreting the phrase "subject name" broadly in terms of the claim, the one-touch keys can be used to also register the

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name of the person, or subject, receiving the email or fax; see figs. 3-6; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-10); and

subject name specifying part configured to automatically determine a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, when the user wants to send a fax or email and activates the code of the one-touch key, the system automatically specifies the name of the receiving party, or the name of the subject receiving the transmission, that is registered for the one-touch key. Also, if the user only wants to send an email, the system can automatically specify one of the titles registered for the one-touch keys once the user has chosen a respective one-touch key for the desired title. Lastly, the system can automatically choose a default title for an email after an email address of a receiving party has been specified and a title has not been specified by a one-touch key. Since a default title can be chosen from the memory (45e and 45f) automatically from the subject names registered for the user in the title storage area (45d), which is also stored in connection with a one-touch key; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67, col. 7, lines 1-34 and col. 8, line 25 – col. 9, line 31) and registered in the subject name registration part, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. the name of the subject receiving the transmission is broadly considered as the subject name and this can be registered in the part of the system that registers these receiving parties to a one-touch key. Also, the titles in the system are registered in the user's area (45f) that is used to register titles. These same titles are used in the email to be transmitted to the receiving party. Since the email is transmitted with the overall email as the title of the

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email, this can be considered as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]) and the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. as mentioned above, the current user of the email function on the facsimile apparatus has to enter in a ID and password in order to authenticate using the email function on the facsimile apparatus. This feature combined with the feature of automatically specifying one of the titles for the

specific user code of Tomida '255 performs the above feature; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 15: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein a plurality of subject names with respective specified priorities are registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, the titles, considered as the subject names, have priorities when the titles need to be designated for an email. For example, if a user is prompted to enter for the title input, the system gives a higher priority to the one-touch and direct input methods and gives the lower priority to the default input method. These titles can be registered in the user's area (45d-f) and in the one-touch keys, considered as the specific user codes. The one-touch keys are considered as the specific user codes because the user sets these specific titles or names of the receiving parties to be coded on the one-touch keys. In the above example, the titles related to the one-touch

keys are given a higher priority than the titles in the default title area (45e); see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31), and

said subject name specifying part automatically specifies one of the registered subject names having a highest priority as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system, if the user decides to use the one-touch key method for the title input, the system automatically specifies the respective title that has a higher priority to be chosen by the user to be placed in a email to be transmitted with the rest of the email information to a receiving party. This performs the above feature since the one-touch key title has a higher priority than a default title and the one-touch key title is used as the title to be transmitted with the email; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the

current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 16: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said subject name specifying part determines whether a subject name previously specified for preferential use is one of the subject names registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, the titles that are specified for preferential use are registered and then coded on a one-touch key. The whole purpose of the one-touch key is to ensure that if a user prefers to use a certain title a frequent amount of time, the user only has to activate the key in order to gain access to the title. The system recognizes if this same title that the user has coded on the one-touch key is specified by the user on the facsimile device; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31), and

if said subject name for preferential use is one of the subject names registered for the specific user code, said subject name specifying part automatically specifies said subject name for preferential use as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system, once a title registered and coded for a one-touch key

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is specified, the system performs the feature of specifying the title and using that title to be included in the email information so that the title can be transmitted together with the email information. If the user does not want to use the preferred title using the one-touch key, the user can prefer to simply use the default title in the system; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 17: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein a plurality of subject names are registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, one-touch keys are coded by the user with a specific code relating to a receiving party or a title. A plurality of titles or receiving parties can be registered for a specific one-touch key. If a user wants to change the title to another title, the process of overwriting a one-touch key is performed. A number of titles can be registered and coded for a single one-touch key; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34), and

said plurality of subject names registered for the specific user code are displayed on said display part for selection by the operator (i.e. in the system, when a user is given the choice to chose a certain title, the titles that are registered in the system and coded on the respective one-touch keys are displayed on a LCD (57) so that the user can select the title desired to be included in an email. The titles are both registered and stored for the one-touch key in order to give the user quick access to frequently used titles in the system; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215.

Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 18: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile machine as claimed in claim 14, further comprising address registration determination part configured to determine whether a mail address is registered for the specific user code (i.e. the system can determine if an address of an email that is received by the facsimile machine is registered on the

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system and specifically registered for a one-touch key. If the user is trying to transmit a facsimile using the one-touch key, the system looks at the registered coded data on the one-touch key and checks to see if a mail address is registered and stored for the one-touch key or if the on-touch key only has a facsimile number; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34),

wherein said subject name specifying part specifies the mail address registered for the specific user code as the transmission subject name when said address registration determination part determines that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (i.e. in figure 4, a name and an email address is associated with the one-touch keys, which is considered as the identification codes. The one-touch key has a mail address being registered as the address used for transmitting an email to another facsimile device. This email address is designated, or specified, by the user. This feature occurs when the actual subject names, or email address, in this scenario are not registered and the user is asked in step 100 if the user would like to register the chosen email address with the one-touch key. Also, since the mail address can be used as a transmission subject name because any title of any kind can be used, the above feature is performed. Therefore, the feature of specifying a mail address registered for the specific user code as a transmission subject name when the subject name is determined to not be registered for the mail data is performed; see fig. 4; col. 4, lines 57-66, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215.

Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 19: Tomida '255 discloses a network facsimile apparatus comprising:

image information scanner part configured m scan an original and output image data corresponding to the scanned original (i.e. the scanner (47) is used for reading an image from an original document and the image data is output by using the facsimile device (1) for transmission through the modem (59); see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

display part including a predetermined display unit (i.e. the LCD (57) displays various messages, such as operational procedures and error messages. It also functions as a touch panel; see fig. 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

image data transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive image data via a public network (i.e. the modem (59) is used for performing transmission and reception of facsimile communications between the public network (32) and the circuit controller (61). The circuit controller (61) is used for transmitting and responding to calls by the public network (32); see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

mail transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive mail data via a network (i.e. the mail controller (65) is used for converting facsimile data into e-mail data to be transmitted and converts e-mail data received; see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

code determination part configured to determine whether a specific user code has been specified (i.e. in the system, the one-touch keys are considered as the specific user code since the one-touch keys are codes that represent titles or other receiving apparatuses that are specified when the user activates or enters in the one-touch key in the system. The system determines whether a certain one-touch key is specified when a user wants to transmit a email or fax to a person or to save information relating to the fax, email or title coded on the one-touch key; see figs. 3-6; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34);

address registration determination part configured to determine whether a mail address is registered for the specific user code of the current operator, if said code determination part determines that the specific user code has been specified (i.e. the system can determine if an address of an email that is received by the facsimile machine is registered on the system and specifically registered for a one-touch key. If the user is trying to transmit a facsimile using the one-touch key, the system looks at the registered coded data on the one-touch key and checks to see if a mail address is registered and stored for the one-touch key or if the on-touch key only has a facsimile number; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34); and

subject name specifying part configured to automatically specify another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system, another title can be specified other than a title specified through a direct method, one-touch key or through the default method. The title can be extracted from the actual document that is being faxed or emailed. The title extracted from the document scanned is used as the title of the document that will be transmitted as a fax or email. Since this title can be any title of any kind, this title can be based on the mail address registered and coded on the one-touch key by using the address of the one-touch key. Also, in the process of figure 9, the use of another title in the process can not begin until the registered mail address of the coded one-touch key is specified, so the process of automatically specifying another title is performed. Lastly, with the subject name, or title, being

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specified automatically by scanning certain parts of a document or choosing a default title after none has been chosen, the feature of choosing another title, or subject name, other than a subject name coded and directed to be used by on a one-touch key is performed; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31),

if said code determination part determines that the specific user code has been specified and said address registration determination part determines that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (i.e. the other title specified only occurs after the one-touch key coded with the registered mail address is specified and the mail address is determined to be registered and coded on the one-touch key is chosen to begin the process of placing another title; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function

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on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]) and the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. as mentioned above, the current user of the email function on the facsimile apparatus has to enter in a ID and password in order to authenticate using the email function on the facsimile apparatus. This feature combined with the feature of automatically specifying one of the titles for the specific user code of Tomida '255 performs the above feature; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 20: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein said subject name specifying part creates said another subject name, based on the mail

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address registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, another title can be specified other than a title specified through a direct method, one-touch key or through the default method. The title can be extracted from the actual document that is being faxed or emailed. The title extracted from the document scanned is used as the title of the document that will be transmitted as a fax or email. Since this title can be any title of any kind, this title can be based on the mail address registered and coded on the one-touch key by using the address of the one-touch key. Also, in the process of figure 9, the use of another title in the process can not begin until the registered mail address of the coded one-touch key is specified, so the process of automatically specifying another title is performed; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

Re claim 21: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile machine as claimed in claim 19, wherein said subject name specifying part appends the mail address registered for the specific user code to "From" (i.e. in the system, when an email is being sent, information regarding the email address of the receiving party and data regarding the information from the sending party is sent to the receiving party as an email. The mail address that is receiving the information is registered and coded on the one-touch key by the user. Although it is not specifically stated that the mail address that is appended in the "From" in the email, it is conventional and is performed in the system since the receiving party

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always is able to recognize whom the sending party is when receiving an email or a fax; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

Re claim 22: Tomida '255 discloses a network facsimile apparatus comprising:

image information scanner part configured to scan an original and output image data corresponding to the scanned original (i.e. the scanner (47) is used for reading an image from an original document and the image data is output by using the facsimile device (1) for transmission through the modem (59); see figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

display part including a predetermined display unit (i.e. the LCD (57) displays various messages, such as operational procedures and error messages. It also functions as a touch panel; see fig. 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

image data transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive image data via a public network (i.e. the modem (59) is used for performing transmission and reception of facsimile communications between the public network (32) and the circuit controller (61). The circuit controller (61) is used for transmitting and responding to calls by the public network (32); see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

mail transmitting and receiving part configured to transmit and receive mail data via a network (i.e. the mail controller (65) is used for converting facsimile data into e-

mail data to be transmitted and converts e-mail data received; see figs. 1 and 2; col. 3, lines 57-65 and col. 4, lines 1-60);

code determination part configured to determine whether a specific user code has been specified (i.e. in the system, the one-touch keys are considered as the specific user code since the one-touch keys are codes that represent titles or other receiving apparatuses that are specified when the user activates or enters in the one-touch key in the system. The system determines whether a certain one-touch key is specified when a user wants to transmit a email or fax to a person or to save information relating to the fax, email or title coded on the one-touch key; see figs. 3-6; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34);

subject name registration part configured to register for each of a plurality of registered user codes, corresponding one or more subject names associated with the registered user code (i.e. in the system, the one touch keys are considered as the user codes since these one-touch keys are coded by the user with information that is being used by the facsimile device. In the system, the user registers titles to one-touch keys in the system. A plurality of one-touch keys is used to register a plurality of titles that can be associated with the one-touch keys. Also, interpreting the phrase "subject name" broadly in terms of the claim, the one-touch keys can be used to also register the name of the person, or subject, receiving the email or fax; see figs. 3-6; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-10);

subject name specification determination part configured to determine whether may subject names are specified for mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system,

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when sending an email and the title has to be specified for the email, the determination of whether a is selected to be transmitted with email data is performed; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, lines 1-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31); and

subject name specifying part configured to automatically specify one of the subject names registered for the specific user code and registered in the subject name registration part, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if the subject name specification determination part determines that no subject name is specified for the mail data (i.e. in the system, a user is able to specify a one-touch key designating a certain title registered and coded on the one-touch key. However, if a user decides not to specify a title using the one-touch key method and the direct method, the system can automatically place a default title on the email. The automatic placing of the default title on the email is after the user has already used a one-touch key for designating an address for a receiving party to receive an email. The title can be placed with the email data after it may be extracted from an original document once the system realizes the title input part is to be excluded because of the extracted title, or the title may be placed in the email by default using the default title area, which can be also be the area where the one-touch key titles are registered and coded. This performs the feature of having the title selected by default being both registered in a storage area and registered for coding on a one-touch key. Lastly, the system can automatically choose a default title for an email after an email address of a receiving party has been specified and a title has not been specified by a one-touch key. Since a

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default title can chosen from the memory (45e and 45f) automatically from the subject names registered for the user in the title storage area (45d), which is also stored in connection with a one-touch key; see figs. 3-9; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-67, col. 8, line 1 - col. 9, line 31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]) and the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. as mentioned above, the current user of the email function on the facsimile apparatus has to enter in a ID and password in order to authenticate using the email function on the facsimile apparatus. This

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feature combined with the feature of automatically specifying one of the titles for the specific user code of Tomida '255 performs the above feature; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the feature of a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating said current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus and the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 23: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein a plurality of subject names with respective specified priorities are registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, the titles, considered as the subject names, have priorities when the titles need to be designated for an email. For example, if a user is prompted to enter for the title input, the system gives a higher priority to the one-touch and direct input methods and gives the lower priority to the default input method. These titles can be registered in the user's area (45d-f) and in the one-touch keys, considered as the specific user codes. The one-touch keys are considered as the specific user codes because the user sets these specific titles or names of the receiving parties to be coded on the one-touch keys. In the above example, the titles related to the one-touch

keys are given a higher priority than the titles in the default title area (45e); see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31), and

said subject name specifying part automatically specifies one of the registered subject names having a highest priority as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system, if the user decides to use the one-touch key method for the title input, the system automatically specifies the respective title that has a higher priority to be chosen by the user to be placed in a email to be transmitted with the rest of the email information to a receiving party. This performs the above feature since the one-touch key title has a higher priority than a default title and the one-touch key title is used as the title to be transmitted with the email; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the

current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 24: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said subject name specifying part determines whether a subject name previously specific for preferential use is one of the subject names registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, the titles that are specified for preferential use are registered and then coded on a one-touch key. The whole purpose of the one-touch key is to ensure that if a user prefers to use a certain title a frequent amount of time, the user only has to activate the key in order to gain access to the title. The system recognizes if this same title that the user has coded on the one-touch key is specified by the user on the facsimile device; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31), and

if said subject name for preferential use is one of the subject names registered for the specific user code, said subject name specifying part automatically specifies said subject name for preferential use as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (i.e. in the system, once a title registered and coded for a one-touch key

is specified, the system performs the feature of specifying the title and using that title to be included in the email information so that the title can be transmitted together with the email information. If the user does not want to use the preferred title using the one-touch key, the user can prefer to simply use the default title in the system; see fig. 10; col. 8, lines 53-67 and col. 9, lines 1-31).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215. Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 25: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein a plurality of subject names are registered for the specific user code (i.e. in the system, one-touch keys are coded by the user with a specific code relating to a receiving party or a title. A plurality of titles or receiving parties can be registered for a specific one-touch key. If a user wants to change the title to another title, the process of overwriting a one-touch key is performed. A number of titles can be registered and coded for a single one-touch key; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34), and

said plurality of subject names registered for the specific user code are displayed on said display part for selection by the operator (i.e. in the system, when a user is given the choice to chose a certain title, the titles that are registered in the system and coded on the respective one-touch keys are displayed on a LCD (57) so that the user can select the title desired to be included in an email. The titles are both registered and stored for the one-touch key in order to give the user quick access to frequently used titles in the system; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215.

Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Re claim 26: The teachings of Tomida '255 in view of Watanabe '215 are disclosed above.

Tomida '255 discloses the network facsimile machine as claimed in claim 22, further comprising address registration determination part configured to determine whether a mail address is registered for the specific user code (i.e. the system can determine if an address of an email that is received by the facsimile machine is registered on the

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system and specifically registered for a one-touch key. If the user is trying to transmit a facsimile using the one-touch key, the system looks at the registered coded data on the one-touch key and checks to see if a mail address is registered and stored for the one-touch key or if the on-touch key only has a facsimile number; see figs. 3-7; col. 4, lines 1-67, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34),

wherein said subject name specifying part specifies the mail address registered for the specific user code as the transmission subject name when said address registration determination part determines that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (i.e. in figure 4, a name and an email address is associated with the one-touch keys, which is considered as the identification codes. The one-touch key has a mail address being registered as the address used for transmitting an email to another facsimile device. This email address is designated, or specified, by the user. This feature occurs when the actual subject names, or email address, in this scenario are not registered and the user is asked in step 100 if the user would like to register the chosen email address with the one-touch key. Also, since the mail address can be used as a transmission subject name because any title of any kind can be used, the above feature is performed. Therefore, the feature of specifying a mail address registered for the specific user code as a transmission subject name when the subject name is determined to not be registered for the mail data is performed; see fig. 4; col. 4, lines 57-66, col. 5, lines 1-67, col. 6, lines 1-67 and col. 7, lines 1-34).

However, Tomida '255 fails to teach the specific user code of the current operator.

However, this is well known in the art as evidenced by Watanabe '215.

Watanabe '215 discloses the specific user code of the current operator (i.e. in the system of Watanabe '215, a user is asked for their user ID and password. This is used to authenticate the user in the system. With the user ID and password, this is known to have the ID and password specific to a user in order to make sure that the user entering the information is not only authorize to perform the function on the equipment, but to also discriminate that user from other users. In the process of the user entering in this information in Watanabe '215, the ID and password is for the current user using the email function on the facsimile machine. This performs the above feature of having the current user enter in information differentiating the current user from others using the facsimile machine; see fig. 4A; paragraphs [0076]-[0088]).

Therefore, in view of Watanabe '215, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time the invention was made to have the specific user code of the current operator in order to assure that only the user of the particular account can use the account (as stated in Watanabe '215 paragraph [0080]).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
6. Watanabe (US Pat No 6762860) discloses a network photograph service that associates titles with registered user IDs and passwords (see column 7).

7. Takahashi (US Pat No 6424429) discloses a file system and a recording medium with a program used in the system stored therein that discloses a title associated with a user ID.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Examiner, Art Unit 2625

April 9, 2008

/Twyler L. Haskins/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

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